

PRAY

DEAF PEOPLES



Rejoice always, **pray without ceasing**,
give thanks in all circumstances; for this
is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

– 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

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Every day people around the world wake up and say, "Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit." Yet they do not know what tomorrow will bring, for what is their life? They are like a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes (James 4:13–14).

In these pages you will get a broad overview of the lives of Deaf peoples. You will see where and how they live. You will read about who they worship and what they fear. You will be offered a chance to join with others and pray for nations to have access to the gospel soon.

Time is not in our hands, but it is in God's sovereign hands. May these people hear and believe the gospel of Christ in their lifetime.

- 1 **STORYING THE GOSPEL**
- 2 **STORYONE CAMPS**
- 3 **HENNA PARTIES**
- 4 **COOKING CLASSES**
- 5 **DEAF SCHOOLS**
- 6 **DEAF WORLD SHAKE**
- 7 **DEAF THEOLOGICAL CENTER**
- 8 **DEAFGO BIBLE**

This guide contains eight themes to help you pray for Deaf peoples around the world. We encourage you to gather with friends or small groups to pray for each need. It is designed to be used at your own pace. You could meet monthly, weekly, or even eight days in a row.

It is our hope that as you pray for countries and people around the world, your hearts will grow together in a desire to see Christ exalted in your own community and among the nations.



STORYING THE GOSPEL

The majority of the thirty-six million Deaf worldwide are non-print communicators. They are usually schooled in the majority language of their home country, but sign language is the language of their community. There are approximately two hundred sign languages of the world. IMB workers engage the

Deaf with the gospel not by handing out Scripture but by a method of sharing called storying. Workers are able to effectively and visually clearly communicate through sign language the truths of God's Word. Efforts are underway to translate the Bible into various sign languages in the world.

Discuss what a Deaf Bible would look like. Would it be a book? A video series?

Pray for Deaf believers to clearly communicate his stories to Deaf around the world.



STORYONE CAMPS

StoryOne camps are an effort of the Deaf Affinity to help Deaf nationals gain access to Scripture stories in their heart language. Camps last about one week, and roughly fifteen Bible stories can be crafted during this time. They choose Bible stories that share foundational truths about

who Jesus is, what it means to be his follower, and what it means to be a church. The crafting process is a vigorous translation exercise that renders works from the original biblical languages into their native sign language, of which there are more than two hundred worldwide.

Discuss different ways the gospel is being shared with the Deaf in your community.

Pray for the StoryOne camps to be well attended and well led.



HENNA PARTIES

Since the Deaf best understand the world through tactile and visual means, henna parties can be an effective way to share the gospel. Deaf teams are using the skin paint to illustrate stories from Scripture, including the biblical account of creation and the prodigal son. While one leader crafts the

design in a visual interpretation on the skin, another leader tells the story in sign language. Many Deaf have never seen these stories signed in their heart language. The artwork stays on the skin for several days as a reminder of the truths of Scripture.

Discuss how you might use art forms such as henna to share Christ with your community.

Pray that our Deaf friends and contacts will be impacted through this art, and desire to meet and learn more of his stories.

4

COOKING CLASSES

Most of the thirty-five million Deaf people around the world have never seen Jesus's name signed in their language. Often ignored and oppressed, the Deaf are some of the least evangelized people in the world. In South Asia, a group of Deaf college students meet each month for cooking classes hosted by Deaf Christian workers. The co-eds enjoy being together and learning

how to make different foods. They also enjoy the novelty of using an oven, as food is only cooked on a stove in many of their hometowns. After the preparation, the students gather around the table to eat what they've prepared, and the leader shares Bible stories in the local sign language. This outreach is attracting people who have never heard the gospel.

Discuss how cooking classes could be used to share Christ in your community.

Pray that more students will join the group and for them to have a hunger for the Word.



DEAF SCHOOLS

The World Deaf Federation estimates that seventy million people are Deaf. At least half of the Deaf people groups in the world are unengaged, and nearly all of them are unreached. Workers serving among the Deaf often have the opportunity to teach in

Deaf schools. As workers build relationships with the students and fellow teachers, they also have openings to share Bible stories with them. Christian workers are using these open doors to share the gospel with the unreached Deaf.

Discuss barriers the Deaf have to receiving and understanding the gospel.

Pray that students and teachers at Deaf schools will be open to the good news of God's love. Pray that as God's Word is signed, his name will be made great in Deaf schools around the world.



DEAF WORLD SHAKE

Deaf World Shake (DWS) is an opportunity for college students to serve with IMB Deaf teams. While on the team, students learn three to five Bible stories in a local sign language, develop and share these stories through drama or “wordless dramas,”

and participate in making Deaf disciples cross-culturally. Sharing the gospel in sign language is one of the most effective tools Christians have in reaching the thirty-five million people worldwide who claim signing as their first language.

Discuss how the college students at your church or local university can impact the Deaf world with the gospel.

Pray for students who will participate in DWS. Pray for the Deaf who will see the gospel, many for the first time, and for the seeds that are planted will grow.



DEAF THEOLOGICAL CENTER

The Deaf Theological Center is located near Nashville, Tennessee, and it uses a story-based approach to theological education. Its methods are very academic, and the tools it provides are reproducible. Praise the Father that the opportunity now exists for Deaf

to train and for Deaf to be trained in the context of their own culture and language. Many hours are spent inside and outside the classroom learning how to produce his stories in true sign language before students go on to sign and videotape the stories.

Discuss the importance of having a school like this to train Deaf workers.

Pray that the Deaf Theological Center's students will be able to learn, apply, and tell the stories, and train others.



DEAFGO BIBLE

The DeafGO Bible is an iconic, story-based translation of the Scripture into American Sign Language (ASL), through which the Scripture videos can be viewed doctrinally and chronologically. The DeafGO Bible project team is committed to producing a translation that is accurate and clear. Getting God's Word into the hearts and minds of the

Deaf is a crucial step to taking the gospel to the ends of the earth. Teams are working to introduce this tool as a delivery system for Bible stories currently being translated into Egyptian Sign Language, Czech Sign Language, Mexican Sign Language, Thai Sign Language, Hungarian Sign Language, Vietnamese Sign Language, and others.

Discuss the need for the Deaf to see the Bible in their language.

Pray for the ongoing translation work and development of corresponding icons within the stories.

Thank you for joining us in praying for Deaf peoples around the world.

Did you know we have 8 more prayer guides for the other peoples of the world?

To download a FREE copy visit:

imb.world/PrayerGuides





Rejoice in hope, be patient in
tribulation, be **constant in prayer.**

—Romans 12:12

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